

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 SY-05 /069 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, CASC (LESLIE, JACQUES)

SUBJECT: L.A. TIMES CORRESPONDENT LESLIE

REF: NEW DELHI 12768

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS 23 SEPTEMBER, INDIAN DCM VENKETESWARAN CONFIRMED THAT THE INDIAN EMBASSY HAD TOLD THE L.A. TIMES THAT LESLIE WOULD FACE EXPULSION FROM INDIA IF HE WERE NOT VOLUNTARILY WITHDRAWN. VENKETESWARAN SAID THAT LESLIE HAD BEEN WARNED TWICE ABOUT ARTICLES HE HAD WRITTEN WHOSE SUBJECT MATTER WAS PROHIBITED BY THE DEFENSE OF INDIA ACT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL SECURITY ACT. HE INDICATED THAT THE CHANCES ARE THAT LESLIE WILL BE EXPELLED SINCE THE L.A. TIMES HAS EVIDENTLY REFUSED TO WITHDRAW HIM.

2. DUBS INDICATED THAT ON THE BASIS OF LESLIE'S ARTICLES THE L.A. TIMES FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO DISCERN ANY BASIS FOR LESLIE'S EXPULSION. OBVIOUSLY, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD OBJECT

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AND PROTEST THE EXPULSION IF IT OCCURRED JUST AS WE HAVE

DONE IN SIMILAR CASES IN THE PAST. DUBS FURTHER NOTED THAT THE TIMING OF THE EXPULSION WAS ESPECIALLY UNFORTUNATE IN THE LIGHT OF THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN AND THAT SUCH AN ACTION ON THE PART OF THE INDIAN

GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT GO UNNOTICED IN THE U.S. ROBINSON

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